

>

Title:Need for exploration of oil blocks at Sunderbans and adjoining areas in West Bengal.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (JOYNAGAR): Sir, under the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), Government has decided to begin exploration of 48 offshore, on-shore and deep sea oil blocks. The country will need an investment of around Rs.1,00,000 crore over the next ten years for attaining oil security.

In this context, I would like to invite Government's attention to various surveys conducted by ONGC in Sunderbans and its adjoining areas in West Bengal which had confirmed the existence of oil blocks below the ground level. The exploration activities were also taken up by the authority some time back but before it could reach any conclusion, the work has been stopped.

Since the Government, under NELP, are about to start exploration of 48 locations, I urge upon the Government to ensure that Sunderbans and its adjoining areas which were earlier earmarked for exploration, could definitely find its place into the list of probable locations for carrying out exploration activities.